

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program

Also includes information on the NSF component of the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) Program

PROGRAM GUIDELINE CHANGES

The CAREER Program offers the National Science Foundation's most prestigious awards for outstanding faculty early in their independent professional careers. To strengthen and enhance the Foundation's support of CAREER, and to ensure that the size and duration of the awards are fully commensurate with the importance of the program, changes have been made to CAREER guidelines in the following areas:

Eligibility
Award Size
Departmental Endorsement

Changes have also been made in proposal preparation and submission guidelines, including changes in the submission deadline date.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

Proposals must be submitted via FastLane by 5:00 p.m., your local time, on or before the applicable deadline date below:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| July 24, 2001 | NSF 01-84A
Biological Sciences (BIO)
Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)
Education and Human Resources (EHR) |
| July 25, 2001 | NSF 01-84B
Engineering (ENG) |
| July 26, 2001 | NSF 01-84C
Geosciences (GEO)
Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS)
Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE)
Office of Polar Programs (OPP) |

The official guidelines for submission of CAREER proposals can be found in the publication *Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program Guidelines for Submission of Proposals* (NSF 01-84), available

from the CAREER Web page (<http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/career/start.htm>). Step-by-step submission instructions are also available at this site. The following questions and answers are intended to be helpful supplements to the program guidelines.

The following sections of this document can be directly accessed by selecting the appropriate heading:

1. [ELIGIBILITY](#)
2. [PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS AND FASTLANE](#)
3. [ANNOUNCEMENT OF CAREER AWARDS AND PECASE AWARDS](#)
4. [BUDGET AND AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION](#)
5. [SUPPLEMENTS TO AWARDED GRANTS](#)

1. ELIGIBILITY

Question: Can I apply for CAREER this year if my tenure-track appointment won't officially start until September 2001?

Answer: Yes, tenure-track appointments that start before October 1, 2001, satisfy the eligibility criteria.

Question: I held a tenured position at my former institution, but I am not in a tenured position now. Am I eligible to apply?

Answer: Yes, you are eligible to apply if you are untenured as of July 23, 2001, and meet the other eligibility criteria.

Question: I started my first tenure-track position in September of 1997. Can I apply to the CAREER program this July?

Answer: No, unless your career has been interrupted or you received your first doctorate degree since then (see below). Along with meeting all other eligibility criteria, your first tenure-track (or equivalent) position must have started on or after October 1, 1997, to apply to the CAREER program.

Question: I previously held a faculty appointment at an institution (in this country or abroad) that does not have tenure-track appointments. Does that experience count towards the 4 years allowed in an academic position stated in the eligibility criteria?

Answer: Yes. Time in a continuing faculty appointment having substantial educational responsibilities (i.e., a tenure-track-equivalent appointment), either in this country or abroad, does count as time in an academic position. You must have started that appointment after October 1, 1997, to be eligible to apply to the CAREER program.

Question: I earned my first doctoral degree before October 1, 1993, but my career has been interrupted. Can I apply?

Answer: Possibly, if your career was interrupted for military service, family leave, or a serious health problem. After deducting the duration of the interruption(s), the time since you received your doctorate must be no more than 8 years as of October 1, 2001, and you must meet the other eligibility criteria for FY-2002 CAREER submissions. You will need to document your case for receiving an exemption. Prior to submitting a CAREER proposal, the documentation must be submitted to the appropriate CAREER Directorate contact with a request for an exemption. Directorate contacts are listed in the "CAREER Contacts List" (<http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/career/contacts.htm>) on the CAREER Web page under "Guidelines and Sources of Information." If an exemption is granted, the full text of the approval received from NSF must be submitted in the **Deviation Authorization** section of the FastLane Proposal Preparation module. The exemption must be included in your electronic proposal submission.

Question: I started my first tenure-track (or equivalent) position before October 1, 1997, but my career has been interrupted. Can I apply?

Answer: Possibly, if your career was interrupted for military service, family leave, or a serious health problem. After deducting the duration of the interruption(s), the time since you entered your first tenure-track (or equivalent) position must be no more than 4 years as of October 1, 2001, and you must meet the other eligibility criteria for FY-2002 CAREER submissions. You will need to document your case for receiving an exemption. See answer above for exemption authorization procedures.

Question: My official appointment to a tenure-track position was dated July 1, 1997, but I immediately went on a Leave of Absence, while continuing my postdoctoral fellowship position. I did not become a regular member of the faculty nor did I draw a salary until January of 1998. Am I eligible to apply?

Answer: Yes, you are eligible to apply (assuming you and your institution meet all other eligibility criteria), as the date you entered your first tenure-track or equivalent position was after October 1, 1997. As described, January 1998 was the effective starting date of your position, hence January 1998 is the date to be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and when completing the proposal cover sheet. This does not require an official exemption from eligibility requirements, as you satisfy the intent of the eligibility criteria.

Question: I recently received my first doctoral degree, but I was employed in a tenure-track-equivalent position while working on this degree. I have been employed in this tenure-track-equivalent position since before October 1, 1997. Am I eligible to apply to the CAREER Program?

Answer: Yes, an individual who held tenure-track or equivalent positions prior to receipt of the doctoral degree is eligible, provided the first doctoral degree was awarded between October 1, 1997, and October 1, 2001. On the CAREER cover sheet, use the month and year in which you received your doctoral degree as the effective date of your first tenure-track appointment.

Question: My department (or institution) does not offer tenure, so I am not in a tenure-track appointment. Can I submit a CAREER proposal to NSF, and how can I determine if NSF would consider my position to be a "tenure-track-equivalent" position?

Answer: You may be eligible to apply, but before submitting a CAREER proposal, you must contact and receive approval from one of the NSF CAREER Directorate contacts listed in the "CAREER Contacts List" (<http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/career/contacts.htm>). See answer above for exemption authorization procedures.

Question: I am employed in my third tenure-track position. Am I eligible to apply?

Answer: Yes, you are eligible to apply if you meet the eligibility criteria in the FY-2002 program guidelines. The number of tenure-track positions held does not affect eligibility under the guidelines.

Question: Am I eligible to apply if I work at a non-degree-granting institution such as a museum, observatory, or research lab?

Answer: If you are engaged in significant education and research activities, and if the educational component of your proposal is integrally related to the education dimensions of your appointment, you may request approval of the tenure-track equivalency of your position from one of the NSF CAREER Directorate contacts listed in the "CAREER Contacts List" (<http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/career/contacts.htm>). See answer above for exemption authorization procedures. If you secure such approval from a CAREER Directorate contact, you may submit a CAREER proposal. Federally Funded Research & Development Centers (FFRDCs) and National Laboratories/Centers are not CAREER-eligible institutions, and researchers employed at such institutions are not eligible to apply to CAREER.

Question: Am I eligible if I work at a 2-year college or a community college?

Answer: These colleges are CAREER-eligible institutions if they award degrees in a field supported by NSF. If you meet the PI-eligibility criteria, you are eligible to apply to the CAREER Program. You are strongly encouraged to begin preparing your CAREER proposal early since you (and/or your institution) may not be registered in FastLane. You and your institution must be registered in FastLane in order to have access to the FastLane proposal-preparation modules and for your SRO to submit your proposal in FastLane.

Question: Am I eligible if I have an adjunct appointment at a university/college?

Answer: No. Only applicants who will be employed in a tenure-track or a tenure-track-equivalent position on October 1, 2001, at a CAREER-eligible institution may apply.

Question: Am I eligible if I have a shared tenure-track appointment at a university?

Answer: Yes. Applicants do not need to be in full-time tenure-track appointments. Applicants who will be employed in a tenure-track or equivalent position on October 1, 2001, may apply.

Question: I'm employed at a research institute that is part of a University that offers tenure, but the institute does not offer tenure. How can I determine if NSF would consider my position to be a "tenure-track-equivalent position," and do I need approval before submitting a proposal?

Answer: If you can document that you are in a continuing appointment with substantial educational responsibilities, you may be eligible to submit. Prior to proposal submission, tenure-track-equivalency approval must be requested and obtained from an NSF CAREER Directorate contact. (See "CAREER Contacts List" on the CAREER Web page at <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/career/contacts.htm>). "Research" and "Instructor" positions are typically not considered to be CAREER-eligible tenure-track-equivalent positions, and individuals in soft-money appointments and/or visiting appointments are not considered to be in continuing appointments.

Question: I am a new faculty member in a tenure-track appointment at a predominantly undergraduate university and would like to apply to the CAREER Program. Am I eligible?

Answer: Yes. NSF encourages CAREER proposals from new faculty members at *all* U.S. academic institutions that award degrees in a field supported by NSF. Predominantly undergraduate institutions play a critically important role in U.S. science and technology through their substantial contributions to research and education. Therefore, applicants from these institutions are encouraged to apply. CAREER awardees will be selected on the basis of creative career-development plans that effectively integrate research and education *within the context of the mission of their institution*.

Question: My university qualifies as an "Undergraduate Institution" under the provisions of NSF 00-144. Is it possible to apply for the CAREER program under the Research in Undergraduate (RUI) provisions?

Answer: No, you must submit your proposal as either a RUI proposal or a CAREER proposal, using the appropriate program announcement guidelines.

Question: I am not a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident. Can I still apply to the CAREER program?

Answer: Yes, you may apply to the CAREER program if you meet the CAREER eligibility criteria, including affiliation with a U.S. institution. However, you will not be eligible for nomination by NSF for PECASE unless you are a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident on July 23, 2001.

Question: If I have received funds from the Federal Government to perform research, am I still eligible?

Answer: Yes, you may submit a CAREER proposal as long as those funds were not received from NSF in the CAREER or PECASE programs and the proposed research activities of your CAREER application do not duplicate those concurrently supported through other source(s).

Question: I have two great projects. Can I submit two proposals?

Answer: Only one proposal may be submitted to the CAREER program per competition year. If the research topic of the second proposal is considerably different from that described in the CAREER proposal, you may submit a regular research proposal while the CAREER proposal is under consideration. NSF will return a second proposal on a closely related research topic to you without review.

Question: Should I submit my proposal to the CAREER Program, to another special NSF Program, or as a regular proposal?

Answer: CAREER proposals are to be submitted to disciplinary programs. In addition to identifying the CAREER program announcement number (NSF 01-84X) when you submit your proposal, you must specify a disciplinary program. Before writing your proposal, it is recommended that you discuss this with the NSF program director who supports research activities in your technical area. For descriptions of NSF disciplinary programs, refer to the NSF *Guide to Programs* (<http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gp>). This document is available from the NSF Web site under "documents online" or from the CAREER Web page. Directorate Web pages also provide program information and may help you in identifying the appropriate program.

Question: Can I have a collaborator listed on my award?

Answer: No. Your research project and/or educational activities can be collaborative, but a CAREER award is intended to enable an awardee to carry out his or her individual career-development plan. Therefore, no Co-Principal Investigator may be named and collaborators cannot be analogous to Co-P.I.s. No salary support for other senior personnel is allowed. (See below under "Preparation and Submission of Proposals" for information on appropriate documentation for collaborators.)

2. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS AND FASTLANE

Proposals must be submitted via FastLane. Before preparing a CAREER proposal, refer to the CAREER Guidelines and to the FastLane Web page at <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov>. Also refer to the FAQs on FastLane proposal preparation, which can be found at <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a0/about/a1faq.htm>.

Question: What if my proposal arrives after the directorate deadline for proposal submissions?

Answer: Only proposals submitted by your institution through FastLane before 5:00 p.m. (your local time) on or before the Directorate/Office deadline will be accepted. Since NSF receives nearly 2,000 proposals in the CAREER program each year, you are encouraged to start your FastLane proposal submission well before the CAREER deadline. Refer to the CAREER Guidelines for Submission and the FastLane Web page for more details. **Any CAREER proposal received after the Directorate/Office deadline will be returned to the preparer without review.** Please note that NSF program officers are not authorized to grant extensions to the deadline for the CAREER program.

Question: How do I decide which program to indicate when I get to the "Unit Selection Lists" part of the Cover Sheet?

Answer: For descriptions of NSF research-supporting programs, refer to the NSF *Guide to Programs* (<http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gp>). This document is available from the NSF Web site under

"documents online" or from the CAREER Web page. Directorate Web pages also provide program information and may help you in identifying the appropriate program. You **must** identify an NSF disciplinary program in this block for the submission of your proposal via FastLane. If you are unsure where to direct your proposal, you should talk with the program director of the program you think is most closely related to your research. However, if you indicate the wrong program on the Cover Sheet, the proposal will be redirected to the appropriate organizational unit. NSF will make the final assignment of your proposal. You may designate more than one program if you think the proposal should be jointly reviewed. However, *do not submit a proposal more than once for the FY-2002 CAREER competition. NSF will accept only the first official FastLane submission for each CAREER applicant.*

Question: How many pages should I devote to describing research and how many to education?

Answer: No number is specified. Use the 15 pages allowed for proposal Section C, Project Description Including Results from Prior NSF Support, to describe your career-development plan to your best advantage. A major objective of the CAREER program is to encourage the integration of research and education. You may wish to prepare a career-development plan that fully integrates these aspects of your academic career, rather than separating them.

While excellence in both education and research is expected, activity of an intensity that leads to an unreasonable workload is not. For instance, teaching additional courses or taking on additional duties is not expected. In fact, a justification for released time may be appropriate for extraordinary curriculum development or education innovation. What is expected is a well-argued and specific proposal for activities over a 5-year period that will build a firm foundation for a lifetime of integrated contributions to research and education.

Question: What should I discuss with my department head? What should be addressed in the department head's one-page statement?

Answer: You should discuss your career-development plan and how it fits with the department's and institution's plans, your responsibilities to the department, and the support that the department will give you. Your department head's statement should attest to the department's support of your plan and that your plan is integrated into the educational and research goals of your department and institution **using the language prescribed in the CAREER Program Guidelines** for Submission of Proposals. Proposals may be returned without review if the Departmental Endorsement statement includes more than the specified three sentences.

Question: I am interested in adding an international dimension to my career-development plan. Is that allowed and, if so, how would I find out what kinds of activities are eligible for support?

Answer: Plans for international collaborations are encouraged. The opportunity to collaborate with outstanding foreign researchers and educators, or access to unique equipment and facilities, may provide substantial benefits to the research and education activities proposed. For information on the types of activities that are eligible for support in various countries, contact the Division of International Programs and refer to the document "International Opportunities for Scientists and Engineers" (NSF 00-138, available at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2000/nsf00138/nsf00138.htm>).

Question: Do I still mail in a signed, original copy of the Departmental Endorsement?

Answer: No. Scan the signed original of the Departmental Endorsement into the Supplementary Documents section of your proposal. Do not send paper copies of this document to NSF.

Question: Do I still mail in a signed proposal Cover Sheet (NSF Form 1207)?

Answer: No. For the FY-2002 CAREER competition, the proposal Cover Sheet (NSF Form 1207, Pages 1 and 2) will be submitted electronically to NSF. No PI Cover Sheet certifications will be required for this competition and no paper copy of the Cover Sheet should be sent to NSF.

Question: My proposal involves collaborators. What documentation can I submit to show the collaborative effort?

Answer: The planned collaborative effort(s) should be described in your career-development plan. You may also submit a short letter from each collaborator to support the partnerships you have described in the proposal. Scan the signed and dated letter(s) into the Supplementary Documents section of your proposal. A collaborator's letter should not include comments that make it possible to infer that the letter is a reference letter. Letters of reference or recommendation **are not appropriate** and **will not** be sent to reviewers. Do not submit any other documentation such as biographical sketches or other NSF forms for any collaborator.

Question: I would like to submit some additional tabular material that would exceed the 15-page limit on the length of the project description. Can I submit this as an appendix?

Answer: The appropriate NSF Assistant Director, prior to submission of the proposal, must approve, in writing, inclusion of additional material that exceeds the 15-page project description limitation. Please note, however, that such approvals are rarely granted. (See GPG Section II.A for additional information.)

Question: How do I apply for the PECASE award?

Answer: Each participating Federal agency has its own nomination procedures. NSF will select its PECASE nominees for 2002 from among the most meritorious PECASE-eligible CAREER awardees who applied for the July 2001 deadline. To be eligible for a PECASE award through NSF, you must submit a CAREER proposal **and** have checked the "PECASE Eligibility" box on the Cover Sheet before submitting your proposal via FastLane. In addition to meeting the CAREER eligibility requirements, PECASE nominees must be U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents who hold that status on or before July 23, 2001. The most meritorious PECASE-eligible CAREER awardees who have indicated that they are "PECASE Eligible" may be asked to submit supplemental information.

Question: I am preparing a CAREER proposal for submission to the Division of Research, Evaluation and Communication (REC) in the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR). What are considered acceptable research activities?

Answer: Research plans submitted to REC/EHR should be oriented toward laying the conceptual foundations and expanding the knowledge base necessary to support the reform of science, mathematics, technology and engineering education. Such activities as software development, hardware development, laboratory-equipment design, instructional-materials development, teacher and informal education may be cited as part of one's education project, but these activities do not satisfy the requirement for research in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology education and, therefore, cannot be the basis for the research plan. CAREER awards should deal with the same general areas of interest discussed in the Research on Learning and Education (ROLE) guidelines (NSF 00-17).

Question: Do other programs in EHR accept CAREER proposals?

Answer: No, because REC is the only research division within EHR.

Question: I am preparing a CAREER proposal for submission to the Office of Polar Programs. Do I need any additional information before writing my proposal?

Answer: Before preparing your CAREER proposal, you should refer to the Antarctic Research Opportunities and Proposal Guide (NSF 00-72) or the Arctic Research Program Announcement (NSF 98-72). Both of these documents are available from the Office of Polar Programs Web page (<http://www.nsf.gov/home/polar/start.htm>).

Question: I know that my university has to submit my proposal by 5 p.m. local time, but I understand that there is an Administrative Corrections option for the SRO to correct the cover page and budget pages after the submission. How does this impact my meeting the 5 p.m. CAREER proposal submission deadline?

Answer: Your proposal must be submitted to NSF by 5 p.m. local time on the date that is appropriate for the Directorate to which your proposal is being submitted. Your institution has 60 minutes after having submitted any proposal during which corrections to either the cover pages or the budget pages (NSF Forms 1207 and 1030) can be made without violating the 5 p.m. submission deadline. Only these forms can be accessed and corrected within 60 minutes of the proposal's submission to NSF without violating the 5 p.m. submission deadline.

Question: If I held an NSF postdoctoral fellowship, do I need to include a "Results from Prior Support" section as mentioned in the Guide Proposal Guide (GPG)?

Answer: Yes. A "Results from Prior Support" section is required whenever a PI has been a PI or co-PI on any NSF support within the last 5 years. This includes postdoctoral fellowships, grants in equipment programs such as Major Research Instrumentation, and educational grants. See GPG Section II.C for the required information. Note: It is very important to do a thorough read of the GPG!

Question: Does it matter which style of referencing is used in the "References Cited - Proposal Section D"?

Answer: Reference styles should conform to standards in your particular field. Titles are required! See GPG Section II.C for the required information.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CAREER AWARDS AND PECASE AWARDS

Question: When will I be notified of the final decision on my CAREER proposal?

Answer: CAREER proposals are reviewed by different panels and/or mail review held at different times across the Foundation. For this reason, award and declination letters will be issued at different times. Most applicants will be notified by February 2002. You can check the status of your CAREER proposal by accessing FastLane. There is a lag time between when the proposal is submitted via FastLane and when it shows up in the FastLane Proposal Status Inquiry and FastLane Institutional Reports applications. If you have not received notification of a decision on your proposal by the beginning of February 2002, and your proposal status is shown as "pending" in FastLane, you can contact the program or division to which your proposal was assigned to inquire about the status. Your proposal's NSF program assignment can be found in the FastLane Proposal Status Inquiry module.

Question: If I receive a CAREER award in 2002, how will I know whether I am being considered for a PECASE award? When will I hear something if I am to get a PECASE award?

Answer: All CAREER awardees who are eligible for PECASE and who have checked the "PECASE Eligibility" box on their proposal Cover Sheet prior to submission will be considered. Up to 20 of the most meritorious CAREER awardees will be recommended to the White House for consideration for PECASE awards. Recipients will be notified after the Presidential awardees have been selected and approved by the White House. It is anticipated that **notification will not be made** before Fall 2002. No information can be released until such time as the White House announces the awards.

Question: If I receive a PECASE award, what will happen to my CAREER award? What would the PECASE award include?

Answer: Under the FY-2002 CAREER Guidelines, new NSF PECASE awards are entirely honorary and do not provide additional funds. The PECASE award will not change the amount or duration of your CAREER award.

4. BUDGET AND AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

BUDGET INFORMATION

Question: What is an appropriate level of funding to request?

Answer: The minimum CAREER award made during this competition will total \$300,000, including indirect costs, over a 5-year period. Proposal budgets should be prepared according to disciplinary practices and the scope of the project. Some NSF directorates, divisions or programs may have a uniform award size. **Applicants to the Engineering Directorate (ENG) should submit budget requests for \$375,000 (approximately \$75,000 per year) for the 5-year duration**, since the ENG Directorate has a uniform amount for all of its CAREER awards. **Applicants to the Biological Sciences Directorate (BIO) should submit budget requests for a minimum of \$500,000 (approximately \$100,000 per year) for the 5-year duration**, since the BIO Directorate has a minimum amount for all of its CAREER awards. You can contact your disciplinary program director or the CAREER division contact (see the CAREER Contacts List on the CAREER Web page under Guidelines and Sources of Information) to inquire about appropriate budget requests for your discipline.

Question: In some previous years' CAREER program guidelines, there was an upper limit on award size. Does that still apply?

Answer: No. There is no upper limit on award size in the FY-2002 guidelines. As noted in the answer above, some NSF directorates, divisions or programs may have a uniform or minimum award size, and the disciplinary program officer or your CAREER contact can provide you with information about an appropriate budget request.

AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Question: Does the duration of CAREER awards still vary from 4 to 5 years?

Answer: No. FY-2002 CAREER awards will be for a uniform duration of 5 years.

Question: Are the reporting requirements for CAREER awards the same as for other NSF awards?

Answer: As with other NSF awards, annual and final reports are required. Annual progress reports should summarize progress in both research and education and, where appropriate, collaborative activities. The report should also include an update of other support. In addition, each annual report for the CAREER award must provide approval and reaffirmation of the department's endorsement of the work plan and continuing partnership in the individual's career-development plan. This approval and reaffirmation of support must be signed by the awardee's department head or equivalent and scanned into the annual report.

5. SUPPLEMENTS TO AWARDED GRANTS

Question: What types of supplemental funds are available for CAREER awards?

Answer: CAREER awards are eligible for supplemental funding as described in the GPG, Section V.B.4.

Question: Should I make preparations to obtain matching funds from industry now?

Answer. No. Supplements for industry matching are no longer provided for in new CAREER awards.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. Grantees are wholly responsible for conducting their project activities and preparing the results for publication. Thus, the Foundation does not assume responsibility for such findings or their interpretation.

NSF welcomes proposals from all qualified scientists, engineers and educators. The Foundation strongly encourages women, minorities, and persons with disabilities to compete fully in its programs. In accordance with federal statutes, regulations, and NSF policies, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from NSF (unless otherwise specified in the eligibility requirements for a particular program).

Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED) provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities (investigators and other staff, including student research assistants) to work on NSF projects. See the program announcement (NSF 91-54) for more information.

The National Science Foundation has Telephonic Device for the Deaf (TDD) and Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) capabilities that enable individuals with hearing impairments to communicate with the Foundation regarding NSF programs, employment, or general information. To access NSF TDD, dial (703) 292-5090; for FIRS, 1-800-877-8339.

The National Science Foundation is committed to making all of the information we publish easy to understand. If you have a suggestion about how to improve the clarity of this document or other NSF-published materials, please contact us at plainlanguage@nsf.gov.

Privacy Act and Public Burden Statements

The information requested on proposal forms and project reports is solicited under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. The information on proposal forms will be used in connection with the selection of qualified proposals; project reports submitted by awardees will be used for program evaluation and reporting within the Executive Branch and to Congress. The information requested may be disclosed to qualified reviewers and staff assistants as part of the review process; to applicant institutions/grantees to provide or obtain data regarding the proposal review process, award decisions, or the administration of awards; to government contractors, experts, volunteers and researchers and educators as necessary to complete assigned work; to other government agencies needing information as part of the review process or in order to coordinate programs; and to another Federal agency, court or party in a court or Federal administrative proceeding if the government is a party. Information about Principal Investigators may be added to the Reviewer file and used to select potential candidates to serve as peer reviewers or advisory committee members. See Systems of Records, NSF-50, "Principal Investigator/Proposal File and Associated Records," 63 Federal Register 267 (January 5, 1998), and NSF-51, "Reviewer/Proposal File and Associated Records," 63 Federal Register 268 (January 5, 1998). Submission of the information is voluntary. Failure to provide full and complete information, however, may reduce the possibility of receiving an award.

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 120 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions. Send comments regarding this burden estimate and any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Reports Clearance Officer, Information Dissemination Branch, Division of Administrative Services, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA 22230.